

Docket No. 13200-US-486
US App. No. 10/510,944

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (original) A meter apparatus for a vehicle, comprising a circuit board, a sound-generating element mounted on one face of the circuit board, a back cover covering the face of the circuit board on which the sound-generating element is mounted, and a separate sound-generating element cap attached to the back cover and covering the sound-generating element in the state that the circuit board is covered with the back cover, the sound-generating element cap being adapted to adjust a sound pressure level of the sound-generating element.
2. (original) The meter apparatus for vehicle set forth in claim 1, wherein said sound pressure level of the sound-generating element is adjusted based on a size of the sound-generating element cap.
3. (original) The meter apparatus for vehicle set forth in claim 2, wherein the sound-generating element cap is attached to a through-hole provided in the back cover at such a position as corresponding to the sound-generating element, the sound-generating element cap comprises a head portion attached to the through-hole of the back cover and a peripheral wall portion extending from the head portion in a direction toward the circuit board, and the head portion and the peripheral wall portion cover at least a part of the sound-generating element.
4. (original) The meter apparatus for vehicle set forth in claim 3, wherein a size of the sound-generating element cap is defined by a distance or a gap between an end edge of the peripheral wall portion of the sound-generating element cap covering the sound-generating element and the circuit board in the state that the sound-generating element cap is attached to the back cover.
5. (original) The meter apparatus for vehicle set forth in claim 1, wherein said sound pressure level of the sound-generating element is adjusted based on a material of the sound-generating element cap.
6. (original) The meter apparatus for vehicle set forth in claim 2, wherein said sound pressure

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level of the sound-generating element is adjusted based on a material of the sound-generating element cap.

7. (original) The meter apparatus for vehicle set forth in claim 1, wherein said sound pressure level of the sound-generating element is adjusted based on that area of the sound-generating element which is covered with the sound-generating element cap.

8. (original) The meter apparatus for vehicle set forth in claim 2, wherein said sound pressure level of the sound-generating element is adjusted based on that area of the sound-generating element which is covered with the sound-generating element cap.

9. (original) The meter apparatus for vehicle set forth in claim 5, wherein said sound pressure level of the sound-generating element is adjusted based on that area of the sound-generating element which is covered with the sound-generating element cap.

10. (original) The meter apparatus for vehicle set forth in claim 7, wherein the area of the sound-generating element which is covered with the sound-generating element cap is adjustable by changing a distance or a gap between an end edge of the peripheral wall portion of the sound-generating element cap covering the sound-generating element and the circuit board in the state that the sound-generating element cap is attached to the back cover.

11. (currently amended) The meter apparatus for vehicle set forth in claim 7, wherein the sound-generating element cap is provided with plural locking portions each adapted to ~~looked~~ lock to the back cover and different sound pressure levels are obtainable in case that the sound-generating element cap is attached to the back cover at respectively plural locking portions.

12. (original) The meter apparatus for vehicle set forth in claim 1, wherein the sound-generating element is an alert buzzer.

13. (original) The meter apparatus for vehicle set forth in claim 2, wherein the sound-generating element is an alert buzzer.

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14. (original) The meter apparatus for vehicle set forth in claim 3, wherein the sound-generating element is an alert buzzer.

15. (original) The meter apparatus for vehicle set forth in claim 5, wherein the sound-generating element is an alert buzzer.

16. (original) The meter apparatus for vehicle set forth in claim 7, wherein the sound-generating element is an alert buzzer.

17. (original) A kit for producing a meter apparatus for vehicle, said kit comprising a circuit board, a sound-generating element mounted on one face of the circuit board, a back cover covering the face of the circuit board on which the sound-generating element is mounted, and a plurality of separate sound-generating element caps each adapted to be attached to the back cover and covering the sound-generating element in the state that the circuit board is covered with the back cover, the sound-generating element caps being adapted to adjust a sound pressure level of the sound-generating element to respectively different levels, whereby an intended meter apparatus for vehicle is produced by selecting any one of a plurality of the sound-generating element cap and attaching the selected one to the back cover.